

MEPA Analyst: *Beiony Angus*

Phone: 617-626-1029

# NPC

## Notice of Project Change

The information requested on this form must be completed to begin MEPA Review of a NPC in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act and its implementing regulations (see 301 CMR 11.10(1)).

Project Name: Weed It Now 2002		EOEA #: 12747	
Street: Jug End Road			
Municipality: Egremont <sup>(1)</sup>		Watershed: Housatonic River	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:		Latitude: 42.150347 Longitude: 73.448737	
Status of project construction:		50%complete	
Proponent: The Nature Conservancy			
Street: 404 LeGeyt Road			
Municipality: Sheffield		State: MA	Zip Code: 01257
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this NPC May Be Obtained: Jason Krzanowski			
Firm/Agency: Hill - Engineers, Architects, Planners, Inc.		Street: 50 Depot Street	
Municipality: Dalton		State: MA	Zip Code: 01226
Phone: (413) 684-0925 x 146	Fax: (413) 684-0267	E-mail: jkrzanowski@hillengineers.com	

In 25 words or less, what is the project change? *The project change involves inclusion of additional Commonwealth land in areas to receive invasive plant species control.*

See full project change description beginning on page 3.

Date of ENF filing or publication in the Environmental Monitor: 4/10/2002

Was an EIR required?  Yes  No; if yes,  
 was a Draft EIR filed?  Yes (Date: )  No  
 was a Final EIR filed?  Yes (Date: )  No  
 was a Single EIR filed?  Yes (Date: )  No

Have other NPCs been filed?  Yes (Date(s): )  No

If this is a NPC solely for lapse of time (see 301 CMR 11.10(2)) proceed directly to "ATTACHMENTS & SIGNATURES" on page 4.

**PERMITS / FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE / LAND TRANSFER**

List or describe all new or modified state permits, financial assistance, or land transfers not previously reviewed: **N/A**

Are you requesting a finding that this project change is insignificant? (see 301 CMR 11.10(6))  
 Yes     No; if yes, attach justification.

Are you requesting that a Scope in a previously issued Certificate be rescinded?  
 Yes     No; if yes, attach the Certificate

Are you requesting a change to a Scope in a previously issued Certificate?  Yes     No; if yes, attach Certificate and describe the change you are requesting:

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Previously reviewed	Net Change	Currently Proposed
<b>LAND</b>			
Total site acreage	1118	150	1268
Acres of land altered	0	0	0
Acres of impervious area	0	0	0
Square feet of bordering vegetated wetlands alteration	0 <sup>(2)</sup>	18,200	18,200
Square feet of other wetland alteration	1,012,334	(712,334)	300,000
Acres of non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways	0	0	0
<b>STRUCTURES</b>			
Gross square footage	0	0	0
Number of housing units	0	0	0
Maximum height (in feet)	0	0	0
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>			
Vehicle trips per day	0	0	0
Parking spaces	0	0	0
<b>WATER/WASTEWATER</b>			
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	0	0	0
GPD water withdrawal	0	0	0
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment	0	0	0
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	0	0	0

Does the project change involve any new or modified:

1. conversion of public parkland or other Article 97 public natural resources to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97? Yes No
2. release of any conservation restriction, preservation restriction, agricultural preservation restriction, or watershed preservation restriction? Yes No
3. impacts on Estimated Habitat of Rare Species, Vernal Pools, Priority Sites of Rare Species, or Exemplary Natural Communities? Yes No
4. impact on any structure, site or district listed in the State Register of Historic Place or the inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth?  
Yes No; if yes, does the project involve any demolition or destruction of any listed or inventoried historic or archaeological resources? Yes No
5. impact upon an Area of Critical Environmental Concern? Yes No

If you answered 'Yes' to any of these 5 questions, explain below:

**PROJECT CHANGE DESCRIPTION** (attach additional pages as necessary). The project change description should include:

- (a) a brief description of the project as most recently reviewed
- (b) a description of material changes to the project as previously reviewed,
- (c) the significance of the proposed changes, with specific reference to the factors listed 301 CMR 11.10(6), and
- (d) measures that the project is taking to avoid damage to the environment or to minimize and mitigate unavoidable environmental impacts. If the change will involve modification of any previously issued Section 61 Finding, include a proposed modification of the Section 61 Finding (or it will be required in a Supplemental EIR).

- (a) The project described the WIN project focus within the 1,118-acre Jug End Reservation. The noted wetland resource on site is Fenton Brook, and impacts were noted within that Resource Area's buffer zone (23.24 acres). Please see Attachment D for the original project description with target species and proposed herbicidal controls. This are is subject to a Special Use Permit.
- (b) The applicant wishes to add work areas to those discussed for Weed It Now 2002. The areas lay both north and south of the buffer zone 23 +/- acres impact, and includes an additional 150 acres to the north of the original work area.

Also, this NPC revises the Resource Area Impacts. The project as originally presented accounted for the buffer zone around Fenton Brook. More detailed initial studies, intended to direct delineation work for the Notice of Intent, indicate upward revisions to Resource Area delineation boundaries and downward revisions of aggregate invasive species control areas within those boundaries. Impacted areas are now categorized by Riverfront Areas, Inland Bank, and Bordering Vegetated Wetlands.

The majority of work will occur east of Fenton Brook, near a gravel pit and maintained fields, and extend up the valley. The impacts to the south are estimated from site observations. The impacts to the north are based on a Notice of Intent filing, with field delineation of wetlands.

- (c) The project will use the same methods for controls; only the affected areas are changing. the refinements to the impact calculation effectively reduce the project footprint. Pursuant

to 310 CMR 11.10(6), the physical dimensions of the project will be reduced by 69% to 318,200 sf; the impact will be lower than that previously presented, from 23.34 ac to an estimated 0.25 ac BVW/IVW and 30lf of Inland Bank, and 6.9 ac Riverfront Area (Note: this Riverfront Area impact is actual impacts in the cumulative Resource Area, subsuming that area previously defined and as Buffer Zone). The project has already commenced, with completion still proposed for October 2008. There are no new permits, permit classes, financial assistance or land transfers associated with the project. There will be no substantive delay in the realization of the environmental benefits of the project, as the benefits will be realized long-term.

- (d) Avoidance / Minimization / Mitigation: The project's core purpose is to mitigate existing alterations to plant and wildlife habitats by plants that encroach on and overwhelm existing ecosystems. The work locations are determined by outside factors (e.g., birds and weather that deposit invasive plant seeds), so avoidance is moot – the program attacks the plants where they live. The methods chosen to control the subject plants are deemed the least damaging to the environment, and will avoid the potential for unintended plant or animal losses.

The only way to further minimize or avoid any possible environmental impacts is to not do the work, and this represents a far greater impact to the environment, as these plants will continue to spread and overwhelm the native plant species.

The end result will be forest and wetland habitats that will better foster the native plant species.

- (1) ENF listed South Egremont, a "village" but not a "municipality".
- (2) ENF listed 23.24 acres of *buffer zone* along Fenton Brook. See revised estimates within the narrative.